

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /046 W

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R 061515Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7102

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CONFIDENTIAL GABORONE 1352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH, ZA, BC

SUBJECT: "ANC" VISIT TO GABORONE

REF: PRETORIA 3777

1. WE UNDERSTAND NKOMO ANC DELEGATION ARRIVED GABORONE OCT 3 AS REPORTED PRESS. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING AS INITIAL READ-OUT OF VISIT. GOVERNMENT-RUN RADIO BOTSWANA BROADCASTER TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE AND ALL OFFICIAL NEWS MEDIA HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT NOT TO MEET WITH OR INTERVIEW ANC DELEGATION OR OTHERWISE GIVE THE GROUP PUBLICITY. ACCORDING TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, GROUP MET SATURDAY AFTERNOON (OCT 4) AT HOME OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY TIBONE. OTHER GOB OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE SECRETARY TO CABINET (AND CLOSE ADVISER TO PRESIDENT KHAMU) STEENKAMP AND PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT LEGWAILA. EXTAFF OFFICER SAID GROUP CLAIMED THEY CAME TO BRIEF THE GOB, NOT TO ASK FAVORS. HE SAID THAT GOB INTENDS TO BE EVENHANDED IN THE SITUATION AND WILL RECEIVE A DELEGATION FROM THE MUZOREWA WING OF THE ANC IF THEY SHOULD CHOOSE TO COME.

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2. COMMENT: IN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, TIBONE HAD CHARACTERIZED NKOMO VICTORY AS AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT BUT HAD NOT ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE DRAWN OUT AS TO POSSIBILITY OF SUPPORT FOR KNOMO BY FOUR PRESIDENTS, SAYING THAT THEY WOULD WAIT FOR MID-OCTOBER CONGRESS (NOW OCTOBER 26, WE UNDERSTAND). IMPRESSION GIVEN BY RECEPTION OF DELEGATION BY GOB WHILE CLOSING OFF PUBLICITY IS THAT THEY ARE KEEPING THEIR OPTIONS OPEN WHILE WAITING FOR THE "DUST TO SETTLE".

THOMSEN

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NNN

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